

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-40: Cancel

- 1 41. (New) A housing apparatus for a portable computing device, the housing
2 apparatus comprising:
3 a housing structure configured to encase at least a portion of the computing
4 device, the housing structure being configured to attach to and detach from the
5 portable computing device;
6 at least one electronic component retained by the housing structure, wherein
7 the at least one electronic component is communicatively coupleable to the
8 computing device.
- 1 42. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least one electronic
2 component is configured to communicate with the computing device when the
3 housing structure is operatively attached to the computing device.
- 1 43. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing structure
2 includes an elongated member that is engageable with an accessory slot of the
3 computing device in order to attach the housing apparatus to the computing device.
- 1 44. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing structure is
2 configured to overlay a housing of the computing device.

1 45. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least one electronic
2 component is configured to transmit or receive wireless radio-frequency
3 communications.

1 46. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least one electronic
2 component is configured to transmit or receive wireless radio-frequency
3 communications in a Bluetooth medium.

1 47. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a communication
2 port that is configured to communicatively couple the at least one electronic
3 component to one or more components of the computing device when the housing
4 structure is attached to the computing device.

1 48. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the communication port is
2 positioned within the housing structure so as to physically connect to a
3 communication port of the computing device when the housing structure is attached
4 to the computing device.

1 49. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the communication port is
2 capable of communicating wirelessly with one or more components of the
3 computing device.

1 50. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing structure
2 includes one or more openings for enabling a third device to access a
3 communication port of the computing device.

1 51. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, further comprising an external
2 communication port that can connect to a third device and enable the third device to
3 communicate with the computing device when the housing structure is attached to
4 the computing device.

1 52. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing structure
2 includes a front segment and a back segment that combine to encase a front shell and
3 a back shell of the computing device.

1 53. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein a portion of an exterior
2 surface of the housing structure is deformable.

1 54. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 44, wherein the housing structure is
2 configured to snugly fit over the computing device.

1 55. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least electronic
2 component is configured to transmit and receive Global Positioning System signals.

1 56. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least one electronic
2 component includes a device selected from a group consisting of a wireless modem,
3 a voice recorder, a digital camera, a keyboard, a mobile phone, a solar cell, a
4 rechargeable battery, Global Positioning System receiver, a recharger, an external
5 memory component, a connector for multi-media cards, memory stick, an accessory
6 cartridge, a compact flash card and a phone card.

1 57. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the communication port of
2 the housing apparatus includes a serial connector.

1 58. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the communication port of
2 the housing apparatus includes a Universal Serial Bus connector.

1 59. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing structure is
2 slideably engageable with a housing of the computing device in order to attach the
3 housing structure to the computing device.

1 60. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing structure
2 includes:
3 a front housing segment that at least partially encases the computing device,
4 including at least a portion of a front surface of the computing device;
5 a back housing segment that at least partially encases the computing device,
6 including at least a portion of a back surface of the computing device; and
7 a joint that connects the front housing segment and the back housing segment to one
8 another and enables the front housing segment to pivot with respect to the
9 back housing segment.

1 61. (New) An electronically-enabled housing apparatus for a portable computing
2 device, the housing apparatus comprising:
3 a housing structure configured to encase at least a portion of the computing
4 device; and

5 a communication port retained by on the housing structure, wherein the
6 communication port is communicatively coupleable to another device.

1 62. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the communication port on
2 the housing structure is communicatively coupleable to a communication port of the
3 computing device when the housing structure encases the portion of the computing
4 device.

1 63. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the housing structure is
2 configured to attach to the computing device in order to encase at least the portion of
3 the computing device.

1 64. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the housing structure is
2 configured to overlay the computing device in order to encase at least the portion of
3 the computing device.

1 65. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the housing structure is
2 configured to fit over the computing device in order to encase at least the portion of
3 the computing device.

1 66. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 65, wherein the housing structure is
2 configured to snugly fit over the computing device.

1 67. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, further comprising a spine, wherein
2 the spine is positioned to insert into a slot on a housing of the computing device in
3 order to detachably attach the housing structure to the computing device.

1 68. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the communication port
2 includes a connector that is capable of mating with another connector of the
3 computing device.

1 69. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, further comprising an embedded
2 connectivity component in the housing structure that connects the communication
3 port of the housing apparatus to one or more other components within the housing
4 structure of the housing apparatus.

1 70. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the computing device
2 includes a housing having a front surface on which a display is provided, and a back
3 surface that opposes the front surface, and wherein the housing structure includes a
4 front segment that extends over the front surface of the computing device, and a
5 back segment that extends over the back surface of the computing device.

1 71. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 70, further comprising a joint to
2 moveably couple the front segment to the back segment.

1 72. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the communication port is an
2 infrared port.

1 73. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the communication port is a
2 radio-frequency port.

1 74. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, further comprising one or more
2 electronic components housed within the housing structure.

1 75. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or more electronic
2 components include a device selected from the group consisting of a wireless
3 modem, a voice recorder, a digital camera, a keyboard, a mobile phone, a solar cell,
4 a rechargeable battery, a battery recharger, a memory, a connector for multi-media
5 cards, a memory stick, an accessory cartridge, a compact flash card and a phone
6 card.

1 76. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or more electronic
2 components enable the housing apparatus to perform as a Global Positioning System
3 apparatus.

1 77. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or more electronic
2 components enable the housing apparatus to perform as a radio-frequency
3 communication device.

1 78. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or more electronic
2 components enable the housing apparatus to perform as a Bluetooth enabled
3 communication device.

1 79. (New) An electronically-enabled housing apparatus for a portable computing
2 device, the housing apparatus comprising:

3 means for encasing at least a portion of the computing device; and

4 a communication port on the housing structure that is communicatively
5 coupleable to another device.

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- 1 80. (New) The housing apparatus of claim 79, further comprising means for
- 2 processing wireless communications housed within the encasement means.